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Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 8th and 12th meetings, on 15 and 23 October 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/53/SR.8 and 12).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/52/730/Add.2 and Add.3 and Add.3/Corr.2) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/474).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.12

4. At the 12th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Canada and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/53/L.12) submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.12 without a vote (see paragraph. 6).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and taking note of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1198 (1998) of 18 September 1998,

Recalling its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/228 B of 26 June 1998,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 15 October 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 69,886,177 United States dollars, representing 21 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission to the period ending 21 September 1998, notes that some 17 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

[1] A/52/730/Add.2 and Add.3 and Add.3/Corr.2.

[2] A/53/474.

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. *Takes note* of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

8. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the additional amount of 37,250,460 dollars gross (34,445,260 dollars net) for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, taking into account the amount of 22,749,540 dollars gross (21,473,540 dollars net) already appropriated for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998 under the provisions of its resolution 52/228 B;

9. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 22,749,540 dollars gross (21,473,540 dollars net) already apportioned for the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998 under the terms of its resolution 52/228 B, to apportion the additional amount of 37,250,460 dollars gross (34,445,260 dollars net) for the period from 1 November 1998 to 30 June 1999 among Member States, at a monthly rate of 4,656,307.50 dollars gross (4,305,657.50 dollars net), in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B and 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 31 October 1998;

10. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 2,805,200 dollars approved for the period from 1 November 1998 to 30 June 1999;

11. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

12. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".